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WRL NEWS

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NOT YET SOLD OUT

"It's Excellent!" Vivianne Nachmias of Philadelphia printed in large letters atop her blank on which she placed her second order for the 1972 Peace Calendar, "In Woman's Soul." Hers is one of the many *re*-order blanks we presently are receiving—a number of which express the hope that there still are some left.

Yes, there are. Order now.

WHAT MOST INFLUENCED ELLSBERG

In an article in the *New York Times* Magazine Dec. 12, "A Month In the New Life of Daniel Ellsberg," J. Anthony Lukas writes that when he asked Ellsberg what had changed him: "He mentions many of the things and people we have already talked about, but gradually we move toward a conference of the War Resisters League which he attended at Haverford College in September, 1969—just weeks before he decided to Xerox the Pentagon Papers.

"There was this one young guy there —a Harvard graduate named Randy Kehler. A very good looking guy, very reflective, thoughtful, calm, into the California culture as I was. The last evening of the conference, Randy gave a talk about the peace movement. He talked of all the people in the movement who were going to jail. Then, out of the blue, he said: 'and I'm very proud I'm soon going to be joining them.' He was resisting the draft and, sure enough, he was soon in prison (sentenced to three years, he was released in December).

" 'Well, I remember thinking, you see —this is our best, our very best, and we're sending them to prison, more important, we're in a world where they feel they just had to go to prison.' "

In another part of the article, interviewing Ellsberg in his home, Lukas writes: "From a nearby bookshelf Dan plucks down several books which he says have influenced his recent development: CONQUEST OF VIOLENCE: THE GANDHIAN PHILOSOPHY OF CONFLICT by Joan V. Bondurant; WE HAVE BEEN INVADED BY THE 21st CENTURY by David McReynolds; THE POLITICS OF HISTORY by Howard Zinn, and, particularly, REVOLUTION AND EQUILIBRIUM by Barbara Deming, whose title essay ends: 'May those who say they believe in nonviolence learn to challenge more boldly those institutions of violence that constrict and cripple our humanity. And may those who have questioned nonviolence come to see that one's rights to life and happiness can only be claimed as inalienable if one grants, in action, that they belong to all men.' "

DAILY DEATH TOLL

Photo by Bradford Lyttle

"Not long before President Nixon showed up to substitute for the White House press secretary, Ronald Ziegler, at the 4 o'clock briefing on Friday (Nov. 14), U.S. Park Police hauled away another batch of the anti-war demonstrators who kept flopping on the White House sidewalk all week to play dead—Vietnamese dead."

Thus the Daily Death Toll demonstrations are mentioned in the opening paragraph of an article by James Naughton in the Sunday News of the Week section of the *New York Times* November 15.

The article concludes: "The 'dying' young demonstrators will be back on the sidewalk in front of the White House tomorrow to make sure Mr. Nixon does not forget."

Not the *same* demonstrators, but others from other parts of the country, each weekday until Thanksgiving—a total of 1500 from 30 states. The number of arrests totaled 700. Most of the WRL staff and many WRLers across the country participated in this pacifist protest which was initiated by Ron Young.

A.J. AND THE MOVEMENT TODAY

February 11, 1972 will mark *five years* since A.J. Muste's death. Each year in the January-February issue we have carried an item to remind readers of him and of his irreplaceable role in the peace struggle.

Today, with the increasing discouragement and disenchantment within the movement, it seems appropriate to reprint the following quote from A.J.

"It is of crucial importance that we should understand that for the individual to pit himself in Holy Disobedience against the war-making and conscripting State, wherever it or he be located, is not an act of despair or defeatism. Rather, I think we may say that precisely this individual refusal to 'go along' is now the beginning and the core of any realistic and practical movement against war and for a more peaceful and brotherly world."

For admirers of A.J. and others interested, we still have the following items in stock:

ESSAYS OF A.J. MUSTE, edited by Nat Hentoff (paperback) $3.45

PEACE AGITATOR, Hentoff's biography of A.J. (hardback—only a limited number of copies still in print) $3.00

WIN MAGAZINE'S A.J. MEMORIAL ISSUE 25c

LIBERATION MAGAZINE'S A.J. MEMORIAL ISSUE $1.50

We also have four tape recordings, the A.J. Muste Memorial Series, monoraul, two-track, 3¾-inch tapes, for $20.

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature

address

city

state *zip code*

ABOARD THE PEACE BUS
By Bill Gray

For the last three months, I have been traveling through the southern states on the WRL Peace Bus. The idea of joining the bus was first presented to me at a perfect time in my life. I needed to step away from the routine of my life to find better perspective on my personal life style, and also to travel in order to see what's happening in other communities.

Initially, being on the bus was exhilarating—getting to know the others on the bus, eating and sleeping in changing circumstances, continually meeting new and different people, awaking in the morning not knowing who we will meet that day or where we will sleep that night. But the freedom and lack of structure also was quite unsettling after being used to a life of routine and very definite direction. I felt that I was being "lazy," "ineffective," "unproductive."

Gradually, we evolved a style that partially resolved this dilemma. Instead of conducting workshops on alternative education, communes, women's liberation, etc., as we initially did in Texas, we spent more time with individuals and catalyzing meetings between individuals or groups that otherwise would not have taken the time to get together. Because we are a group of people on a bus interested in what's happening, our very presence gets people together in ways that don't happen often otherwise, and we give people a chance to take time out from their routines to discuss fundamental questions about what they are doing.

For me the most exciting thing has been the individuals we have met and learned from. The other people on the bus, of course, have influenced me the most deeply. Rarely does one form deeper friendships with previously total strangers as we have, sharing together such a rapid and intense stream of experiences.

The most important lesson I have learned on the bus is one that really applies to all of us in all our communities: that, after all, we are just people sharing with people. We are not "organizers" in the sense of producing a community that didn't previously exist. We are not teachers with special understanding of the way things should be. Each of us is simply an individual struggling to sort out the contradictions, the confusions, the fears, and the meanings of our individual lives. No one of us can change the world. No one of us can even change another indivdual. But all of us can share.

NEW LITERATURE

THEY LOVE IT BUT LEAVE IT. Written by WRI Secretary Devi Prasad, this book covers all major aspects of desertion by U.S. servicemen and their situation in the countries where they have taken refuge (paperback) $1

AIN'T GONNA PAY FOR WAR NO MORE. Finally, everything you'd want to know on war tax resistance under one cover—by Robert Calvert, coordinator of War Tax Resistance. (paperback) $1

STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE. A report on crime and punishment in America prepared for the AFSC with Mark Morris as staff writer (paperback) $1.95

FREE TO GO. When William Kuenning went to D.C. on spring vacation it was not to participate in the Mayday demos. But he wound up by doing so and he, his wife, son and daughter all were busted. He tells the story, human interest style, in this pamphlet 75c

WHAT IS CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS? This noted article by Wilhelm Reich is translated into English for the first time in a reprint by Liberation Magazine $1

CHRISTIAN PACIFISM IN HISTORY. Geoffrey Nuttall, a British theologian, details the different sources of Christian pacifism in five eras. (paperback) $1.25

THE TORTURE OF MOTHERS. This book by Truman Nelson about the Harlem Six case is no longer on our literature list, but we still have it in stock and it is of interest today because of the current re-trial of four of the defendants, which has been receiving considerable publicity. (paperback) ..$1.75

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Re: New Literature advertised in last issue.

AN EYE FOR AN EYE, an excellent prison paperback (95c) by 4 cons doing time at Indiana State Prison. WRLers who ordered this book received notices from us that it is "indefinitely out of stock." This is erroneous, we found upon re-checking with the publisher. The book *IS* available and can be ordered from us now.

IT COULD BE YOU, a 15-page, 25c pamphlet on grand juries. WRLers who ordered this pamphlet and others interested should know that we now have additional information on the subject which is included in RESIST's new MOVEMENT SECURITY KIT, available from us for $1.

The Barrels of Indian Guns

By EQBAL AHMED

(a Fellow of the Adlai Stevenson Institute and a defendant in the Harrisburg Conspiracy case)

EDITOR'S NOTE—"The power of the East Bengali people cannot flow out of the barrels of Indian guns," writes Eqbal Ahmed, a West Pakistani who also opposed the "barrels" of his own government's guns turned on the East Bengali people under the now-deposed military dictator, Yahya Khan.

Some Indians also were dismayed over the "barrels of Indian guns"—India's resort to war as a solution to the massive influx of millions of refugees from the West Pakistani onslaught. They feel that had India six months ago, leveled charges against West Pakistan and the U.S. in the U.N. the world body might have taken remedial action. Furthermore, they blame the American peace movement for its failure to mobilize against U.S. policy on Pakistan to the same degree as against U.S. policy on Vietnam. Only a minute number of peace people have participated in the protest demonstrations which have occurred since last March when Dictator Yahya Khan launched his attack.

This article by Eqbal Ahmed appeared in the New York Times December 16, one day before the 15-day war ended with a military victory for India. However, his criticism of the military solution retains its validity. In fact it tallies with the statement issued by WRI: "On behalf of the peaceful people of the world, WRI re-states its condemnation of Pakistan's oppressive treatment of 78 million Bengalis and also condemns India for her military action to solve the present problem."

An apt illustration of what war engenders on both sides is a December 19 dispatch with gruesome photos from Dacca by two AP photographers, Horst Faas and Michel Laurent.

"Some 5,000 people witnessed the torture and execution of four young men at a public rally here yesterday. None of the leaders who were present at the rally could explain the specific charges against the four men. 'They are razakars,' said one referring to the local (West Pakistani) militiamen who are believed responsible for widespread killing rape and looting.

"Yesterday morning before the executions, the mass graves of several hundred Bengalis, apparently mostly doctors, professors and students, were found near Dacca. All had been tortured and murdered—allegedly by the razakars —in the last days before the Pakistani Army's surrender."

At this point we can only share the hope, expressed in the WRI statement "that the people of Bangla Desh reject militarism altogether and devote all their energies to the reconstruction of their beautiful land."

I am among the few West Pakistanis to have denounced the rigid policies and criminal conduct of our military government. The army intervened in East Bengal to offset the results of Pakistan's first freely held elections, transforming the demand for autonomy into a movement for independence.

Now I must oppose India's massive military intervention. It violates the U.N. Charter and reinforces the dangerous trend toward direct foreign interventions in civil conflicts. How reprehensible the international community deems the Indian action is best indicated by the overwhelming vote in the UN, including those of India's staunch allies, Yugoslavia and Egypt. That India has ignored the U.N. resolution is a witness to its disregard of international opinion, and another reminder of the helplessness of humanity confronted with aggression.

The Indian Government does not view with favor demands for regional autonomy, much less secession. The sword of central authority has fallen swiftly on recalcitrant peoples in India. West Bengal, the Indian half of Bangla Desh, has been repeatedly subjected to military intervention and is currently under direct federal rule. Its people share with East Bengalis a contiguous boundary, culture and language.

Only religion and competing nationalisms (Hindu and Moslem) separates them. A sovereign, secular and socialist Bangla Desh can be enormously attractive to the Marxist majority of West Bengal, and threaten the "integrity" of India. To prevent this, India must keep Bangla Desh in bonds.

The power of the East Bengali people cannot flow out of the barrels of Indian guns. The direct military intervention is intended to promote an Indian protectorate rather than a genuinely independent Bangla Desh. It is aimed at probing the dwindling power of India's Bengali clients—the Awami League and Communist (Moscow-oriented) leaders in exile; and the conventionally trained frontier Bahini.

Mrs. Gandhi's outright rejection of U Thant's proposal indicated that the goal of dismembering Pakistan took priority over the refugees' welfare. While sympathetic U.S. Senators were given guided tours of the refugee camps, severe limits were imposed by India on international relief organizations preventing even reliable estimates on the actual number of refugees.

For a Negotiated Settlement

Apart from the war victims, at least four million stranded minorities (Bengalis in West, non-Bengalis in East Pakistan) may be massacred unless there is an immediate cease-fire and a settlement negotiated. Furthermore, military victory in East Pakistan will not eliminate India's refugee burden. The bulk of the refugees, being Hindu, are unlikely to return to predominantly Moslem Bengal. And (unless they are massacred) more than two million Biharis in Bangla Desh can now only return to India (they came to East Pakistan as refugees) where their presence might spark fresh communal riots.

Prominent Americans who invoke the refugee problem to justify Indian military intervention are either irresponsible apologists for India or ignorant of the complexity of communal conflicts on the subcontinent.

By summer's end the generals had begun bending to seek a settlement. Beset by the pressures of massive Soviet armaments, Indian troops on the frontier, inflation and growing resistance at home, they were willing to concede in October the autonomy which in March they had so brutally tried to prevent. Important Bengali leaders, initially interested but abjectly dependent on Delhi, began refusing discussions on any terms except immediate and total independence. Indian military moves put an end to the dim hopes of settlement.

One hopes the world community will act forcefully to bring about (1) immediate cease-fire on the subcontinent, (2) withdrawal of all alien forces from disputed territories, and (3) under United Nations supervision, free elections in Bengali, Kashmir and Nagaland. These may begin to have a chance on the subcontinent when the peoples of these ravaged lands have exercised their right of self-determination.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Texas and Thereabout

By TOM FLOWER

EDITOR'S NOTE—Tom Flower, former area peace education secretary for AFSC has been named WRL field staffer for Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Individuals and groups seeking his services can contact him: 932 Mistletoe (2) San Antonio, Texas 78212 (Phone 512-733-1655).

The trial in Killeen, Texas, stemming from my arrest during the Veterans Day demonstration was postponed, and the feeling is that the charges will be dropped. Apparently they don't want a test of what is clearly an unconstitutional city ordinance.

I spoke at a rally in Killeen December 4. There was a good turnout, and my talk on personal responsibility and nonviolence was well received. It was a counterpoint to some of the other speakers who were into a heavy "up the wall" rhetoric trip.

I spent December 9-11 in San Angelo, a town of 50,000 about 200 miles north of San Antonio. San Angelo State College is located there.

On the 9th I spoke at a poorly attended meeting in the Campus Student Ministry house. Next day I just walked around the campus, rapping with students and passing out literature. I made contact with Drug Central, a federally funded drug crisis and information center operated by long hairs. I spoke at lunch to a group called the Antenna, composed of liberal ministers, professionals and a few business men. About 40 were present. The response was excellent. As a result of this meeting, I got an invitation to deliver the sermon at San Angelo Unitarian Church Jan. 16.

That evening I attended a Human Rights day meeting and panel sponsored by the Bahis. Spoke briefly, and set up a literature table.

My San Antonio activities have been confined to working with the farmworkers on boycott activities, and helping with the arrangements to take several buses to the state prison with families of the inmates on January 2.

WRL Midwest

By HUGH COOK

After talking about it for over a year, there now exists a regional office for the midwest. The region is Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa.

Milwaukee WRL grew out of the Milwaukee Area Draft Information Center when several of us felt a need to go beyond just draft counseling. We moved in February to the new Milwaukee Peace Action Center. After staying alive for a year and a half, which is in itself somewhat of a feat, and actually making some progress, we felt it was time to start a regional office. In November our proposal was accepted by the national committee.

Our first task was to find out what people around the region are doing and what kinds of problems they face. We sent out a questionaire to all 2793 on the regional mailing list and to all the war tax resistance centers. The response is encouraging. So far we have heard from six persons who are seriously interested in starting local WRLs in their towns. We also have gotten responses from groups who are having trouble and want our help. People seem very aware of the need for communication. They feel isolated—that they are in the fight all alone.

We plan to spend a lot of time working with new groups and meeting with them. I remember the effect that Mike Russell had on us when he came through Milwaukee about a year and a half ago with the WRL Peace Bus. He was a real inspiration. We also want to build solid communication with all kinds of groups in the area so that organizations working on a project can coordinate. There is a lot of interest in regional projects such as an expanded bicycle caravan going from town to town and talking about resistance, nonviolence, etc.

If you live in the Midwest and we haven't heard from you yet, please send in the questionaire or a letter about what you're doing, what problems you face and what kind of help you could give to other groups. We are interested in peace action on every level.

One thing we need is a regional conference which could be very productive. We hosted the national tax resistance conference in Milwaukee Jan. 7-9. The regional conference should be in a city other than Milwaukee. If your group wants to host it, let us know. Our address is 1437 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53202 (Phone 414-272-3040).

WRL Southwest

By TOM STEWART

During Thanksgiving weekend *WRL Southwest* struck another blow against the myth that nothing ever happens here. In sponsoring the first Southwestern Conference on Nonviolence, the regional WRL group achieved a needed coming together of "movement" leaders from six states.

People arrived at the Corrales Community School, some hitching into town, on Friday. These included representatives of such groups as AFSC, GI's for Peace, Institute/Mountain West, and other peace and anti-oppression groups from all over New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, California, and Hawaii.

The greatest concern was with the unique problems which face the peace movement in the Southwest where population centers are scattered so widely. It has been hard, for example, to amass the energy and sheer numbers necessary for certain kinds of successful actions. It has also been almost impossible to expose the area to important speakers and documentary films, and we have been largely ignored by the rest of the nation.

It was brought out that this situation is especially unfortunate in view of all that should be done in this, the fatherland of nuclear weaponry. It seems as though this part of the country is almost a colony, maintained for military and environmental exploitation.

The most tangible thing to come out of the conference was the decision to create an information network to keep the groups in the cities, towns, and colleges in touch with each other. It is not too hard for an isolated activist, say in Bisbee, Arizona, to develop a head full of ideas that will drive him insane if he doesn't have someone to discuss them with. Hopefully by the year's end a monthly newsletter will begin reporting activities and ideas from all over the region. Starting in Albuquerque, it will originate in different towns from time to time to avoid its becoming one group's personal outlet.

The groups represented told of their recent activities and plans. Other topics considered by either the whole gathering or in smaller groups included alternative life styles, the nature of nonviolence, noncooperation in jail, and reaching the smaller towns and colleges. A very interesting discussion on sexism pointed out that this problem is really part of the need for all people's liberation from their restrictive roles.

THE AIR WAR, OR THE BANALITY OF EVIL

By DAVID McREYNOLDS

Hannah Ahrendt, in her excellent book on the Eichmann trial, subtitled it "The Banality of Evil." It is a term we find fits very well the current war in Indochina, where thousands of lives are taken each week as the war shifts from land to air.

One watches Nixon on television and sees a man who doesn't smoke, drinks little, worships regularly, loves John Wayne movies and Guy Lombardo music. A man totally lacking in excitement, very ordinary, and yet also the man who is ordering the massive killing in Indochina, seeking to achieve through air power what Johnson could not achieve with ground troops. We expect evil to trumpet its own nature, to wear horns or to leer at us. But instead it is only a man like Nixon, a man so ordinary he could be us. How very like Eichmann he is as one watches him on TV; Eichmann, the man who never really hated Jews but only carried out—with remarkable efficiency—the orders to murder them.

"This Electronic Battlefield"

Most people I've talked with do not understand what the air war is. They conceive of it in World War II terms—a lot of planes dropping a lot of high explosives. It is that, but it is also horribly more than that. The Indochinese air war involves weapons of great sophistication, designed to wipe out all human life over a wide area. One weapon is the bomb which opens as it falls, spilling out hundreds of steel balls the size of grapefruit. Each of these balls in turn has an explosive charge inside and contains hundreds of steel pellets. When the balls hit, they explode, spraying out steel pellets which lack the velocity to pentrate wood or steel or concrete—but easily penetrate flesh. A bullet follows a straight path through the body but the pellets have a random trajectory, causing greater harm and—if they remain in the body—making it difficult to locate them for removal. Recently, as an improvement, the pellets are made of plastic, which do not show up on x-rays, meaning that Vietnamese doctors have no way of locating and removing them. We also drop "fleshete" bombs. The fleshete is like a tiny steel arrow, or a nail which has small fins instead of a head (They can actually be used, just like nails, in construction.) When the flechete hits the body it tumbles, leaving a wound similar to that of the dum dum bullets that fragment on contact. The "mother bomb" explodes in air, sending tens of thousands of flechetes hurtling down like a literal hail of death. And we have what can be called "foot bombs"—tiny little packets of cloth, the size and shape of a match book, which are scattered by the millions and which explode when stepped on. They are not fatal—they just rip off your foot.

In addition to these weapons, the corporations have helped out the Pentagon by building very special sensor devices that are dropped by air and monitor human movement. These sensors cannot distinguish between troops and children (neither can the steel pellets, the flechetes, the "foot bombs"). They just monitor movement and on the basis of that information air strikes are called in. From miles above the earth the B-52's rain down death on what might be children, or farmers, or perhaps even troops—the only thing that is certain is that something triggered the sensor devices.

The battlefield is being automated and every living thing becomes an enemy. *Every* living thing—the forests which we deliberately destroy, the crops which are burned and defoliated, the water buffalo, the people. And sometimes even troops. Anthony Lewis, commenting on the air war in the January 1 *N.Y. Times,* said, "Before 1967, more than 100,000 people lived in the Plaine des Jarres. They got in the way of the American bombers operating over Laos, but this inconvenience was removed in a way reminiscent of Swift's 'A Modest Proposal'; The inhabitants were all either killed or forced out of their homes as refugees." Commenting on the recent massive bombing of North Vietnam, Fred Branfman warned in the *New York Times* of January 2 that "Unless checked by public opinion, the Administration may well be prepared to level Hanoi and Haiphong, mine Haiphong Harbor, and possibly even bomb North Vietnam's system of dikes."

How desperately sick is this electronic battlefield, this antiseptic war, in which no one takes any chances or risks —except the very real Indochinese dead. How easy to work for Honeywell or ITT, making up the parts for the bombs. How easy for Nixon to order a "pre-emptive air strike" from the comfort of his Western White House. How easy for our fliers to soar up in their B-52's, floating miles above the earth, dropping their wares through cloud cover, never even seeing the bomb blast. Peoples and forests vanish and none of us ever have to look at it or know about it except as one of those statistics which Laird reads out. Wasn't Germany like this, with men like Eichmann carrying out orders, corporations supplying the chemicals for the gas chambers without even asking questions? Here we have the vastness of crime but no one feels criminal, or turns restless in their sleep, for the blood and screams are unseen, unheard.

"Changing The Color of the Corpses"

On a philosophical level we are all guilty for having allowed our economic system to run amuck, mindlessly churning out both Wonder Bread and pellet bombs. Nixon is too easy a target—our slogan should not be "Evict Nixon," but "Evict the System." And we must see that if Nixon is guilty, we are not innocent. If he gave the orders, did we resist strongly enough? I know I haven't. The invisible dead are on my conscience as well as on Nixon's.

On a more immediate political level it is our job to educate the public to the fact the war is not over. Yes, *our* casualties have dropped to almost zero. But thousands of our brothers and sisters still die each week, and many thousands more are maimed for life. Nixon's policy is racist—he believes that by changing the color of the corpses he can silence the peace movement. Thus far he is right, he has pandered to the worst within us and seems to have bet wisely. But there is a terrible danger that the air war, evil as it is, may expand still further as Vietnamization falters.

In Laos and in Cambodia our "armies by proxy" are losing ground. Most of Laos and Cambodia are already lost and this will expose South Vietnam more directly to attack from bases just across the border. The war is not winding down but expanding in the air and Nixon will be under a terrible temptation—with pressure from the Pentagon—to try once more for victory through leveling North Vietnam.

For those who are dying, the Vietnam war is still very much an issue. It is our job to make sure that it remains an issue with the American public, which is paying for the bombs. To this end the WRL has joined with other groups in a special campaign to emphasize the air war and educate the public on it. Write us for special materials.

MP WON-OVER BY WRL FILES FOR CO DISCHARGE

"Well, I finally did it," writes David Zimmerman, MP at Sandia Army Base in Albuquerque. "I filed my application for discharge from the Army on the basis of conscientious objection. It was one of the most significant steps in my life.

"I owe quite a bit of thanks to all the people at WRL. You've all been a source of inspiration and courage. You've helped me think about war and my relationship to it and provided publications that enabled me to get more information to help me think. Thanks very much for publishing my initial story in WRL NEWS and in WIN."

In that story Zimmerman told how on May 3 he was ordered to arrest WRL Southwest demonstrators at the base and concluded: "I'm sorry I had to arrest them and I plan to never again participate in a demonstration in such a capacity."

CHALLENGES PASSPORT LOYALTY OATH

Beverly Woodward, WRL national committee member, is one of five plaintiffs in a suit filed January 10 contesting the constitutionality of the requirement that an "oath of allegiance" be signed in order to obtain a U.S. passport. Since 1966 the oath has been optional, though most passport applicants were not informed of this fact. As a result of court action last summer Secretary of State William Rogers was ordered either to delete the oath or to make it mandatory. He chose to make it mandatory. Both Rogers and Frances Knight, director of the national Passport Office, are defendants in the new suit which is being filed under the auspices of the ACLU.

The suit requests an injunction to prevent the defendants from including the oath on passport application forms. Beverly, in a letter to the Passport Office explaining her refusal to sign, protested that the oath requirement was in violation of the Bill of Rights and that it appeared designed to foster chauvinistic prejudices. She stated: "For those of us who consider ourselves not only Americans, but members of the community of man, such anachronistic practices—and the demand that we participate in them—are necessarily a source of severe mental and moral anguish. As a result . . . I have decided not only to refuse to sign the oath, but to resist . . . the government's decision."

MARJ SWANN GETS PEACE AWARD

Photo by Bradford Lyttle

WRL chairman Igal Roodenko presents the League's Annual Peace Award for 1971 to Marjorie Swann, characterized in this year's peace calendar as "guiding spirit of New England CNVA, militant protestor against war, conscription and militarism—often taking her witness to prison." The presentation took place at the annual dinner December 4 at Greenwich Village Peace Center.

A surprise speaker at the dinner was Lanza del Vasto, a longtime pacifist outstanding in Western Europe, who happened to be visiting the U.S. Food for the dinner was potluck, supplied by various WRLers in the New York area. The Peace Center walls were adorned with the Cuban children's art work which the MONDCIVITANO crew brought back from Havana last May in exchange for U.S. children's paintings and drawings. *WRLers who would like to exhibit the Cuban children's art work in their community should contact Peter Kiger at WRL.*

WRL CHAIRMAN'S '72 TOUR STARTS NOW

In early February, WRL Chairman Igal Roodenko will begin his cross-country speaking tour. Response so far has been enthusiastic. League members and friends who are interested in having their communities included on the tour are urged to write to Lynne Shatzkin at the League office. We are especially interested in hearing from communities in the midwestern and northwestern states which Igal was unable to visit last year.

Following is a tentative schedule subject to modification:

Early Feb.—Down eastern seaboard from New York to Florida, Puerto Rico.
Late Feb.—Ala. across through Tex. Arizona, N.M.
Mid March—Southern Cal. Bay Area
Late March—Northern Cal., Oregon, Washington, West Canada.
Early April northern Rockies, Dakatos, Nebr., Kansas
Late April—Okla., Mo., Iowa, Minn.
Early May—Wisc., Ill., Ind., Ky.
Late May—Ohio, Mich., West Pa., New York

"TO END REPRESSION AND BLOODSHED IN NORTHERN IRELAND"

This is the heading on a WRI leaflet whose massive distribution was initiated in Belfast on New Year's Day.

"The campaign is not limited to Great Britain," states WRI. "We would like to see the leaflet distributed in every country where our sections and fraternal groups can handle it—at places like Thomas Cook travel agencies, BOAC, British embassies and consulates, universities where there may be British students, etc.

Asserting that "It is time to recognize that there can be no military solution to the problem of Northern Ireland," the leaflet calls for a 3-point program: "1. End internment and release all political prisoners; 2. Withdraw British troops; 3. Recognize the right of all people to self-determination."

The leaflet is available from WRL—single copies free, $1 per 100.

A SNOOPY STORY

A belated but interesting story of FBI snooping has been sent us by Steve Hodes. It occurred last spring in Denver when he was working with a group planning for Maydays in D.C.

"Sometime in April, I took a 5-day trip out of town and on my return was informed by my landlady that the FBI had visited her," Hodes writes. "They asked for me and showed her a letter addressed to me, unpostmarked, from WRL. They told her that WRL stands for War Resisters League which they described as a Communist front group which wants to overthrow the government and which was planning to violently disrupt the nation's capital. I told her this was nonsense, but she was furious and forced me to leave. 'I don't want any trouble and the FBI is trouble,' she explained. I never did receive that Mayday mailing from WRL."